

## Smoke Safety Council

Where There's Fire, There's Smoke. *Advocating a Balanced Approach to Protecting People & Property*  
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The Smoke Safety Council is urging the State Building Code Council to disapprove proposed Washington State amendments 09-183 and 09-239.

Protection of patients in hospitals has always been a concern in the State of Washington. Patients in hospitals are dependent on the fire and life safety systems required by the Washington Building Code. These building code requirements coupled with the trained hospital staff ensure the safety of non-ambulatory patients during a fire emergency and give firefighters a level of safety from smoke while battling a fire.

Passage of 09-183 and 09-239 would:

- ❖ Overturn the recent ICC code action in the 2009 IBC and would drop Washington below the national standard of life safety in hospitals. The International Building Code represents a minimum standard of life safety.
- ❖ Reduce the level of life safety in hospitals for patients.
- ❖ Reduce the level of life safety for firefighters.
- ❖ Eliminate requirements for vertical smoke protection not only in hospitals but also in R-2 occupancies which by definition are:

Apartment houses, Boarding houses (not transient), Convents, Dormitories, Fraternities and sororities, Hotels (nontransient), Live Work Units, Monasteries, Motels (nontransient), Vacation timeshare properties.

Passage of these amendments would go far beyond the intent of the national IBC requirements to provide smoke protection.

- ❖ Provide prisoners in the State of Washington with a higher level of protection than patients in Washington hospitals.
- ❖ Allow unprotected vertical penetrations in hospitals. All other vertical penetrations into the required smoke compartment are required to be protected from fire and smoke, why not elevator hoistway openings?

Please disapprove these two amendments. Passage of either amendment would seriously decrease the level of life safety for patients, residents and firefighters by allowing unprotected vertical openings for movement of smoke in Washington hospitals.

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